



Barb Laughland has stayed committed to a lifetime of service

Tamara Botting, The Gazette

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Barb Laughland is Henderson General Hospital's longest-serving volunteer.

The 76-year-old Binbrook resident was presented with a 40-year pin on November 26, 2009 for her volunteer work alongside the paid employees also celebrating their 40-year anniversaries with the hospital. She was the only volunteer honoured at the ceremony.



Binbrook resident Barb Laughland, 76, is the Henderson General Hospital's longest-serving volunteer.

"The Henderson was the closest hospital. I had three kids in school, and my dad died suddenly, so I wanted to do something useful. I had always wanted to be a nurse, so I suppose this was the closest thing. Never did I realize I would still be doing it 40 years later," said Laughland.

"Because of my husband's stroke, I'm now an inactive volunteer, but I have been made a lifetime member."

Having volunteered at the hospital for 40 years, Laughland has seen many changes over the years, including the Henderson General Hospital becoming a part of Hamilton Health Sciences.

"Over my 40 years, there have been a lot of changes," said Laughland, who started out as a self-described 'paper girl'; she would bring a cart with newspapers, chocolate, pop and magazines around to the patients' rooms.

"We only had one car, so our neighbours shared the driving; they always made sure I had the car on Fridays, which was my day to volunteer, and would drive my husband to work."

Having the support and cooperation of family and friends is important to volunteering, according to Laughland, who has also been involved with the Binbrook Community Policing Centre, Guides and Binbrook Little Theatre.

"I like to be busy," she said. "I'm always active in the community."

Currently, Laughland is volunteering as the script assistant for Binbrook Little Theatre's upcoming play, 'Just One More, Mr. Munsch!', which will be presented starting February 5.

"Anyone who volunteers is unexpectedly rewarded beyond all measure," said Laughland, adding, "I figure you serve God best by serving your fellow man."

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